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SITUATION AND TRENDS IN DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC

Review of the illicit traffic

Report by the Secretary-General

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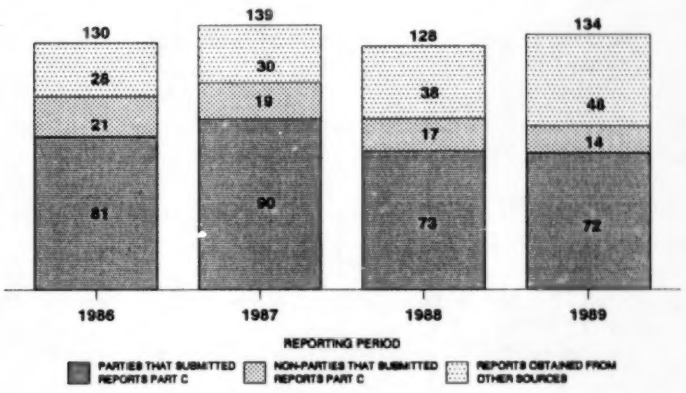
INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretary-General presents to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at every regular session, a report on illicit traffic world-wide for consideration by the Commission under the agenda item entitled "Situation and trends in drug abuse and the illicit traffic".

2. The present report reviews the situation in 1989, up to the end of the calendar year. It is based on seizure statistics and related data provided to the Secretary-General by the Governments of 80 States and five Territories or areas in 1990, in compliance with the provisions of article 18 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, 1/ and article 16 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 2/ (although not all of the reporting States are parties to these treaties). In cases where States, whether parties or not, have not reported to the Secretary-General in the manner requested in the two Conventions, the data provided to the United Nations in connection with regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies or otherwise, to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), or to the secretariats of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) or the Customs Co-operation Council and subsequently made available to the Secretary-General have been used, thus bringing to 134 the total number of States and Territories whose seizures are incorporated in this report (see figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of reports from which data were included in the annual document of the Division of Narcotic Drugs on illicit drug traffic, 1986-1989



3. Attention is directed in section I below to the importance of achieving a more complete and fully comprehensive supply of data, in the form and manner requested, upon which trends in illicit traffic can be reliably and, where possible, categorically based.

4. In sections II and III, world and regional trends in illicit traffic are discussed in terms of individual drug types, covering illicit cultivation, production or manufacturing and illicit traffic patterns in 1989, reference to

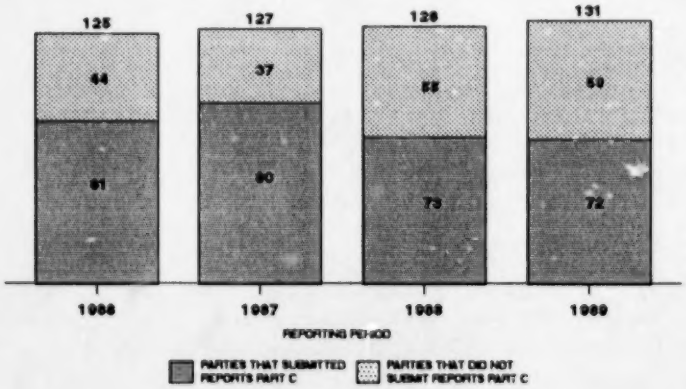
1987 and 1988 being made when appropriate. These sections should be considered in conjunction with document E/CN.7/1991/CRP.8, which sets out the annual totals of all drugs reported seized in the period 1987-1989 (and also shows the total quantities reported seized world-wide during the 15-year period 1975-1989). In sections IV and V, additional attention is given to illicit manufacture and diversion from legal sources.

I. LIMITATIONS PLACED UPON THIS REPORT BY FAILURE OF COUNTRIES TO REPORT

5. Countries that are parties either to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (or the 1972 Protocol thereto) or to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 are obliged thereby to furnish to the Secretary-General an annual report and specified particulars (determined by the Commission) concerning illicit traffic within their territories. Moreover, such information is required to be furnished by such dates and in such manner (i.e. by use of specific forms) as the Commission may request.

6. Of the 131 countries that are party to at least one of the relevant Conventions, many either do not report at all, or report so late that the information is not available in time for detailed study and inclusion in reports prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs. Despite repeated reminders (and consequent delay in the preparation of the present report) a great deal of information has not been made available for inclusion in it (see figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of parties to the 1961 and 1971 Conventions submitting annual reports questionnaire (part C) in the requested manner, 1986-1989



7. If data on illicit traffic are to be collected and processed at one central point in order that indications, trends and conclusions may be drawn and presented in such a way as to be of interest and practical use to member countries, this process must be based on complete, accurate and timely information. Thus a collection of data in which some 47 per cent of the countries are missing cannot be fully exploited for fear of producing misleading and unreliable conclusions, and is consequently of only limited usefulness.

8. To meet the request of the Secretary-General, made on the recommendation of the Commission, two types of reports are required to be submitted by countries to the Division of Narcotic Drugs, namely:

(a) The annual report questionnaire, consisting of three parts, of which part C refers to illicit traffic. This questionnaire is sent out once a year for completion in respect of total seizures for the previous calendar year, return being requested by the end of the month of June. These form the basis of these regular reports to the Commission;

(b) Individual seizure reports, namely details of each individual seizure of international significance, to be made as soon as practicable after the seizure has been effected. These reports are published in a quarterly summary and contribute to an up-to-date overview of the state of and developments in illicit traffic.

9. Parties to the 1961 and 1971 Conventions number 129 and 103 respectively (as at 7 January 1991). Of these, the following parties have not yet provided to the Division of Narcotic Drugs a completed annual reports questionnaire (part C) for 1989: Afghanistan,* Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana,* Brazil,* Brunei Darussalam,* Burundi, Cameroon,* Cape Verde,* Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic,* Gabon,* Ghana,* Guinea,* Guyana,* Haiti,* Honduras, Iceland,* Ireland,* Jamaica,* Jordan,* Kenya,* Kuwait,* Lao People's Democratic Republic,* Lebanon,* Lesotho,* Liberia,* Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,* Malawi,* Malaysia, Mali,* Malta,* Monaco, Morocco, Nepal,* Nicaragua,* Niger,* Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea,* Paraguay,* Republic of Korea, Rwanda,* Saudi Arabia, Senegal,* Solomon Islands,* Somalia,* South Africa, Sudan,* Suriname,* Togo, Tonga,* Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda,* United Arab Emirates and Zaire.*

10. The countries listed in the preceding paragraph are urged to communicate to the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs any special difficulties they may have encountered in providing information in the manner requested.

11. The Secretary-General is most grateful to receive completed annual reports questionnaires from a number of countries and territories that are not parties to either Convention and, in some cases, not members of the United Nations. These reports, of course, contribute greatly to more complete and reliable information on illicit traffic; they numbered 17 for the year 1988 and 14 for 1989.

12. In respect of individual drug seizure reports only 31 countries have reported seizures in each of the last three years, two of these not being parties to either Convention. The total number of individual drug seizures communicated has dropped in each of the last two years (see figure 3) because one Government, which reported more than 1,500 seizures in 1988, has sent no reports since April 1989.

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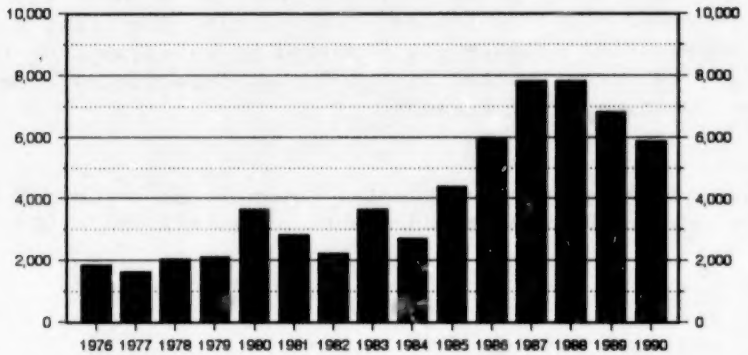
*Not provided a report for 1988 either.

Figure 3. Number of individual drug seizures communicated by Governments, 1976-1990



II. ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IN 1989 BY DRUG TYPES

Cannabis

13. Seizures of this most widespread of all narcotic plants, which grows wild in many regions and areas and to greater potency in favourable climatic conditions or in response to agronomic or horticultural care, are reported by reference to the three principal forms in which the substance is trafficked - herbal, resin and liquid, as well as by plants and seeds. They are also reported variously by weight and by unit (and sometimes in the case of liquid cannabis by litres). When it is considered that a single plant can range from a few centimetres to three metres or more in height (with a consequent considerable range in weight) and that seizures in both herbal and resin form are sometimes reported in units (i.e. 6,044 units of resin and 3,664 units of herb for 1989), accurate interpretation of seizure reports is difficult.

14. It does appear, however, from all reports received that quantities of cannabis seized are declining generally and even drastically. The quantity of both herb and plants reported by weight has declined very sharply (the combined totals have dropped from 53,000 tonnes in 1987, to 21,000 tonnes in 1988 and to a mere 4,000 tonnes in 1989), being only partly offset by seizures reported in units (mostly plants), which, after dropping from 61 million in 1987 to 41 million in 1988, rose to 111 million in 1989 (see figure 4).

15. In 1988, seizures of cannabis resin increased in every region, save for the Near and Middle East, only to fall in every region and overall by 16 per cent in 1989. The most noticeable contributions to this fluctuation appear to arise from the United States of America (a drop from nearly 37 tonnes in 1988, which included one single seizure of nearly 36 tonnes, to 71 kilograms in 1989), Canada, Morocco (9.7 tonnes in 1988, no report received in 1989) and Pakistan (a drop of 40 tonnes between 1988 and 1989, but the latter figure is based upon ICPO/Interpol annual seizures, as no annual report questionnaire has been returned for 1989). It should be noted that the world total of 466 tonnes in 1988 was a record high (see figure 5). Indeed there is no doubt that illicit traffic of cannabis resin continues at a high level, as shown by significant quantities involved in individual seizures during 1989 and 1990,

the most outstanding totalling 45 tonnes interdicted in the Netherlands in June 1990 (source ICPO/Interpol), followed by 35 tonnes of cannabis resin of Pakistan origin detected by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in May 1990 in Newfoundland after reportedly being offloaded from an unidentified mother ship. In all, Canada reported about 70 tonnes seized during the first six months of 1990. Another substantial seizure was reported by Pakistan drug law enforcement authorities: 36 tonnes packed in 1,800 bags interdicted from a launch 70 miles off the coast south of Karachi.

Figure 4. Cannabis herb and plants: quantities reported seized world-wide, by weight and number of units, 1987-1989

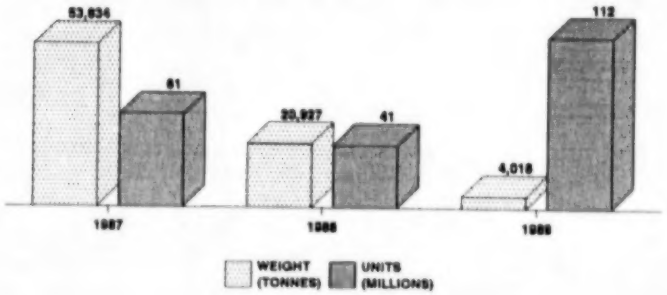
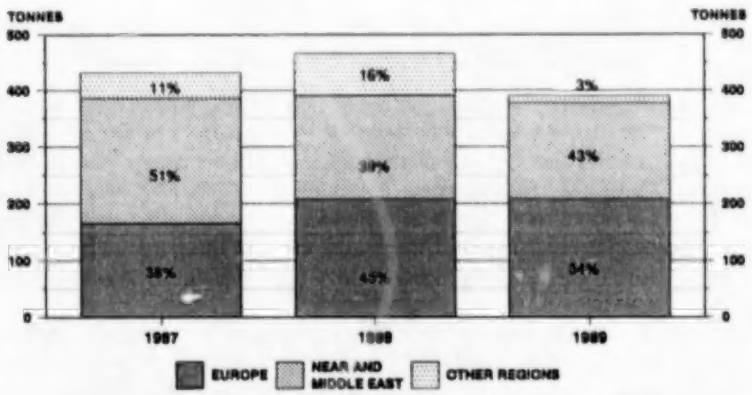


Figure 5. Cannabis resin: quantities reported seized, Europe, the Near and Middle East, and other regions, by weight, 1987-1989



16. Seizures (by weight) of cannabis seeds have also reportedly fluctuated sharply, up in 1988 and down in 1989, but this appears to be largely due to Colombia having reported some 75 and 60 per cent of the world totals in 1987 and 1988, filing no report in 1989.

17. Only liquid cannabis has maintained a distinct increase world-wide in each of the years 1988 and 1989, particularly in the Americas, only Europe showing consistent declines in each of those two years.

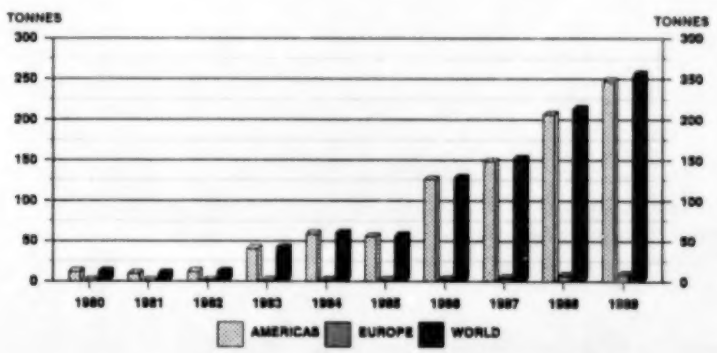
Coca and cocaine

18. Reports received reveal a rather uncertain picture of the position in the principal producer region of Latin America but a clear increase in the amounts of this substance being trafficked to other regions. Coca and cocaine are reported under the heads "bush", "leaf" and "base and salts". The first produces little of significance, as only one country reported in 1989 (and none of the principal producer countries). In respect of "leaf", with almost the entire total being reported by Latin American producer region countries, a large increase compared with 1988 in Colombia is offset by considerably reduced seizures reported by Peru (from 120 to 33 tonnes) and to a lesser extent Argentina and Bolivia (just under 2 tonnes recorded in 1989, compared with 24 tonnes in 1988). In all, the total of coca leaf reported seized in the Americas declined for the second consecutive year (by 22 per cent following the 51 per cent decrease in 1988).

19. This, however, is in contrast with the reported illicit cultivation situation. All of the three countries of the region providing information in both years estimate an increased area under illicit cultivation (more than double to 533 hectares in Colombia, and from 6,000 to 200,000 hectares in Peru, albeit that Peru's 1988 figure corresponded with the actual area seized). The picture would be more complete had a full report been received from Bolivia.

20. For cocaine (base and salts), however, a clear and steady increase is indicated in both 1988 and 1989, a major proportion of the quantities being seized in the Americas. Indeed the total quantity seized and the increase would be even greater if all countries had reported. In 1989 significant increases were noted in Africa (Nigeria), in the Americas (Aruba, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela), in almost all the European countries, and in Japan and Australia (see figure 6).

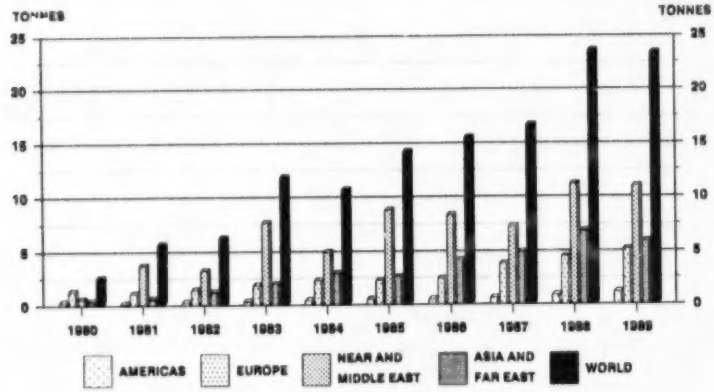
Figure 6. Cocaine: quantities reported seized, the Americas, Europe and world-wide, by weight, 1980-1989



Heroin

21. Heroin, generally considered the most dangerous and harmful drug of all, is understandably better reported upon than others. Although many annual report questionnaires have not been received, figures are widely available from other reports and sources. After an overall 41 per cent increase over 1987 recorded in 1988, the 1989 total is within 1 per cent of that of 1988, with two fewer countries having reported (see figure 7).

Figure 7. Heroin: quantities reported seized, selected regions and world-wide, by weight, 1980-1989



22. In 1988, there were distinct increases recorded in each region; in 1989 these increases continued in Africa, the Americas, Europe and Oceania (all consumer or demand regions), with slight decreases in the Near and Middle East and Asia and the Far East (producer regions). In particular, significantly smaller seizures (differences shown) were reported by Egypt (270 kg), India (300 kg), the Islamic Republic of Iran (2.5 tonnes), Thailand (1.5 tonnes) and Yugoslavia (200 kg).

23. On the other hand, increased seizures were reported by Afghanistan and China (400 kg each), Pakistan (2 tonnes), Federal Republic of Germany* and Spain (200 kg each) and Hong Kong, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (100 kg each). The quantities reported seized in the various regions in 1989 are shown in figure 8.

Morphine

24. Morphine followed a similar pattern to heroin, a considerable (114 per cent) increase reported by weight in 1988 (accompanied by decreases reported

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*On 3 October 1990, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany merged to form a single sovereign State called Germany.

by litres and units), being followed in 1989 by a 35 per cent decrease by weight but considerable increases reported in litres and units. This represents a swing to reporting in the latter two forms of measure (from 24 per cent of the reports in 1988 to 35 per cent in 1989), and therefore indicates that approximately the same total amount was seized in the last two years. It would also appear to indicate a variation from powder form to tablets, as considerable increases in units seized were reported from the Americas, Asia and the Far East and Europe; the decrease reported by weight was mainly accounted for by a 300 kg decrease in the Islamic Republic of Iran (where 64 per cent of the reported world total had been seized in 1988). Figure 9 shows morphine seizures by weight, volume and number of units for the period 1987-1989.

Figure 8. Heroin: quantities reported seized, all regions, by weight, 1989

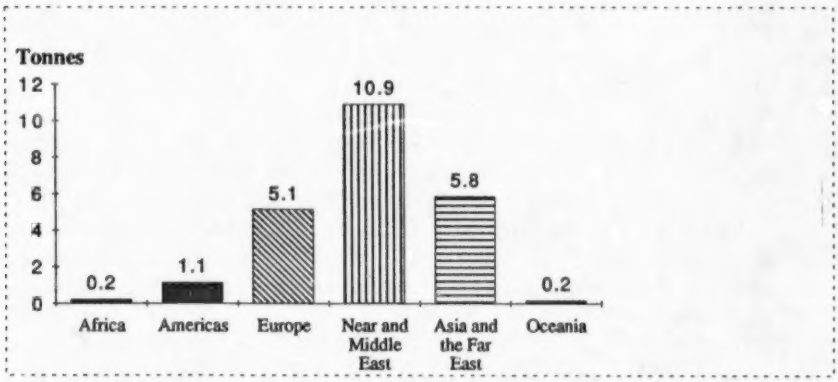
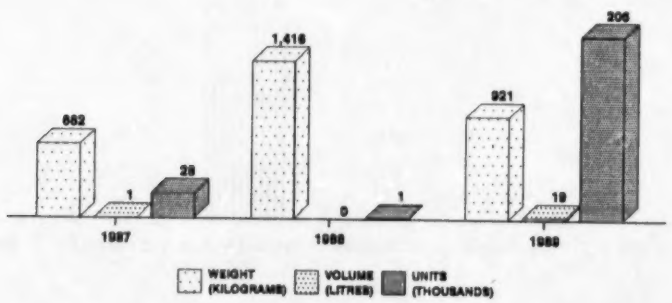


Figure 9. Morphine: quantities reported seized world-wide, by weight, volume and number of units, 1987-1989



25. Additionally, relatively smaller quantities are reported under the heading of "opiates" - these add to and generally reflect the comments made above regarding morphine.

Opium

26. Opium is reported under the heads of "seeds", "plants and capsules" (or "poppy heads"), "liquid" and "raw and prepared".

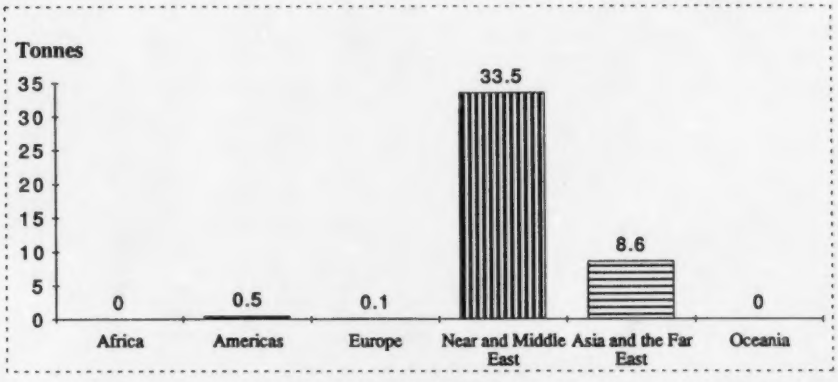
27. While the world total of poppy seeds seized has remained substantially the same in each of the last three years, there have been considerable regional variations, reflecting reports from a small number of countries. The considerable quantity seized in Mexico has declined each year, accompanied by reductions on a smaller initial quantity in the Near and Middle East, but offset by one large seizure in Sri Lanka in 1989.

28. Quantities of plants and capsules have increased both in weight and units, special increases having been reported in both 1988 and 1989 by Spain and Thailand, with Egypt and India showing decreased quantities in 1989 following large increases the previous year.

29. Opium in liquid form is infrequently reported; after exceptional successes reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1988, this total reverted to under 2 kg and less than one quarter of a litre in 1989.

30. Raw and prepared opium increased by about 19 per cent in 1988, then dropped by 30 per cent in the following year to 18 per cent below the 1987 total. This variation was largely accounted for by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which achieved the following percentages of total quantities reported to have been seized world-wide: 71 per cent in 1987, 64 per cent in 1984 and 62 per cent in 1989. Total quantities reported seized in the various regions are shown in figure 10.

Figure 10. Opium: quantities reported seized, all regions, by weight, 1989



Synthetic narcotics

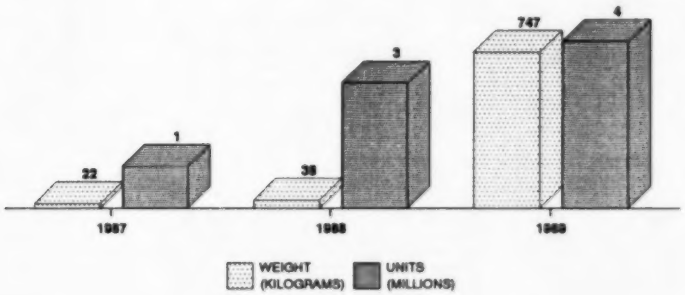
31. The figures for synthetic narcotics reported seized are difficult to interpret, being reported variously in kilograms, litres and units and additionally being affected by differing national counting procedures.

Psychotropic substances

32. Of the psychotropic substances, depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens have shown generally increased quantities seized in both 1988 and 1989 - only lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) has decreased in both years and in all regions, except Oceania, confirming its continued declining popularity.

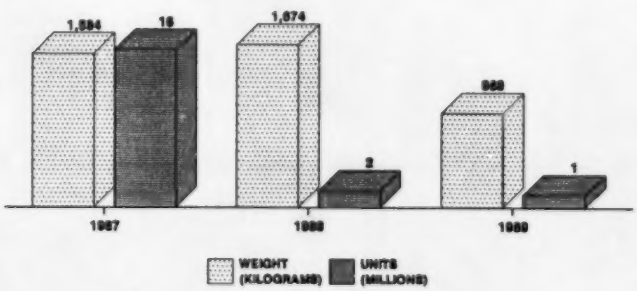
33. Marked increases in quantities of depressants seized were reported from Africa, the Americas, the Near and Middle East and Asia and the Far East, and in particular by Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia; Canada and Mexico; Denmark, Spain and Sweden; and Egypt, Saudi Arabia and India. The progressive increase world-wide from 1987 to 1989 is shown in figure 11.

Figure 11. Depressants: quantities reported seized world-wide, by weight and number of units, 1987-1989



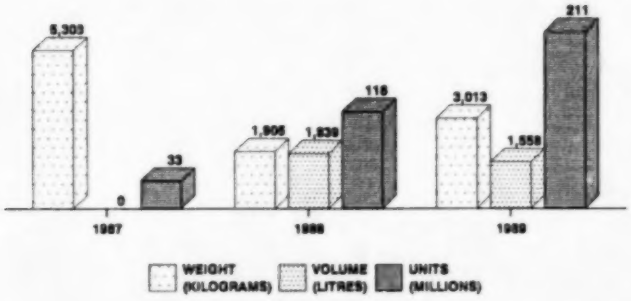
34. In respect of methaqualone, the world totals indicate a decrease in both 1988 and 1989 (see figure 12). This apparent trend is, however, clearly misleading in the light of missing reports from a number of countries in both Africa and Asia and the Far East, where traffic in this substance is known to continue - on the other hand increases were recorded in 1989 in the Americas, Europe and the Near and Middle East.

Figure 12. Methaqualone: quantities reported seized world-wide, by weight and number of units, 1987-1989



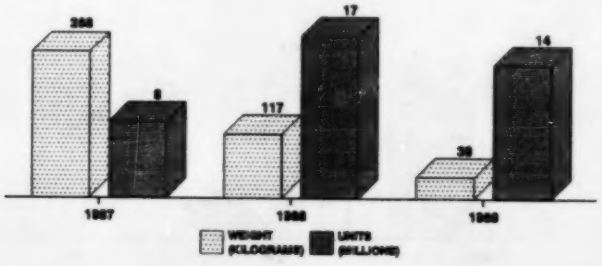
35. The reporting of stimulants has also shown a move from counting in kilograms to the use of litres and units. The world total by weight has fluctuated, down 64 per cent in 1988 and up 58 per cent in 1989; yet total units seized have mounted from 33 million, to 116 and 211 million over the three years (1987-1989) (see figure 13). The increases have been pronounced in the Americas (predominantly the United States of America), Europe (persistently in some Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands, with isolated large quantities reported elsewhere) and in 1989 in Oceania (Australia). It should be noted that seizures of khat are included as stimulants.

Figure 13. Stimulants: quantities reported seized world-wide, by weight, volume and number of units, 1987-1989



36. Hallucinogens provide yet a further example of a shift towards increased reporting in litres or units. Thus while weight seized decreased in both 1988 and 1989, in respect of units seized a considerable increase was recorded in 1988 and a levelling off in 1989 (see figure 14). This was particularly reflected in the Americas (where the United States was again predominant). A considerable increase in terms of units was apparent in Europe (Netherlands), and a clear and steady increase in both weight and units in Oceania (especially New Zealand).

Figure 14. Hallucinogens, including lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD): quantities reported seized world-wide, by weight and number of units, 1987-1989



III. TRENDS AND ANALYSIS BY REGIONS

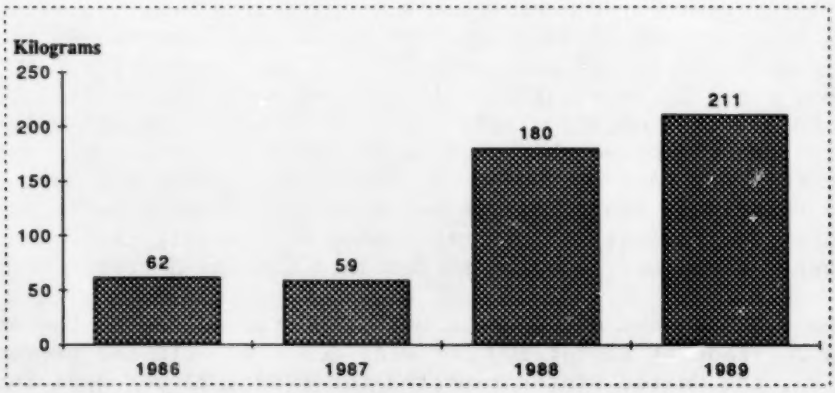
A. Africa

37. While the African region remains a widespread producer of cannabis in herbal form for consumption within the region, the resin from Morocco continues to supply much of the demand from Europe. Although in minuscule quantities by comparison, khat grown in north-east Africa and hitherto thought to have a short "shelf life" is being found increasingly further afield from its area of production, particularly in the Scandinavian countries.

38. Illicit traffic in and abuse of psychotropic substances remains a grave problem to African countries. Although only eight of the 51 countries of the region reported seizures of depressants, only five reported seizures of methaqualone (all in south-east Africa) and a different five reported stimulant seizures (all in West Africa), increased total quantities were apparent in 1989. Much of the methaqualone, coming from India, is destined for South Africa. Discounting the 1987 and 1988 seizures in South Africa (no report in 1989), other countries of the subregion have been reporting progressively steep increases, particularly Swaziland and Zambia.

39. Figure 15 illustrates the increase in quantities of heroin seized in Africa in the period 1986-1989. The most striking feature of illicit traffic in the African region in 1989 was the involvement of African couriers in transporting heroin from both south-west and South-East Asia, mainly to Europe. In the majority of cases, these couriers were or were purported to be Nigerians, often carrying forged or falsified travel documents. They tended, however, to carry relatively small consignments, often internally (swallowed or placed in body cavities). Thus, of all the heroin traffickers intercepted in Europe in 1989 (and reported to the Division of Narcotic Drugs) 28 per cent were Africans (including 12 per cent Nigerians) though they carried only 8 per cent of the total quantity seized in Europe.

Figure 15. Africa: quantities of heroin reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989

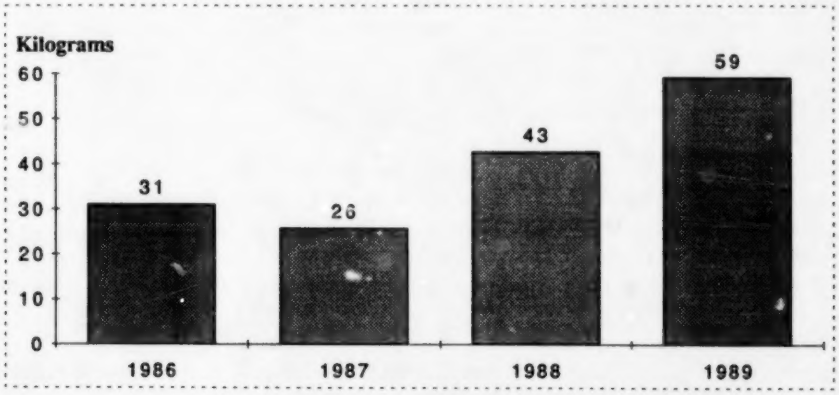


40. In 1990, initial indications were that this wave of African courier activity was decreasing, in response to tighter controls by both producer and demand countries, as well as stricter measures at African transit points. The

predominance of Nigerians was also giving way to involvement of other nationalities, though, still mainly West African. These factors could, however, conceal a displacement (or diversion, from the trafficker's viewpoint) of this courier activity to new routes and transit points, along with more sophisticated trafficking methods that are as yet escaping detection.

41. The further African trend worthy of notice is the steadily growing incidence of cocaine - total annual seizures in the region rose by 65 per cent in 1988 and by 39 per cent in 1989, all reported by west and central African countries with easy access to air links with South America (see figure 16).

Figure 16. Africa: quantities of cocaine (base and salts) reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



B. Americas

42. This region continues to account for a very substantial proportion of the total quantities reported seized world-wide in respect of many types of drugs, for example 85 per cent of liquid cannabis, 81 per cent of cannabis herb (see figure 17), 95 per cent of cannabis plants (reported by weight seized, to be compared with 2.3 per cent of that reported by unit), close to 100 per cent in all coca and cocaine types, 46 per cent, 100 per cent and 93 per cent of hallucinogens when reported by kilograms, litres and units respectively, 92 per cent of LSD, 83 per cent of stimulants reported in units (though only a small proportion was reported by weight or volume). Only in respect of cannabis resin, heroin (4.9 per cent of the world total) and depressants does this region play a relatively minor role in world illicit traffic in terms of quantities seized in the region; it is worth noting that significant quantities seized in other regions are reported as destined for the Americas.

43. While the 1,000 tonnes of cannabis herb reported seized in the Americas represented a decrease of almost 100 per cent compared with the previous year (see figure 18), the United States reported for 1989 a 22 per cent increase of domestic production of cannabis herb, reaching an estimated amount of 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes. Canada also reported an increase to 20 per cent of the proportion of herbal cannabis grown locally. Through the application of modern

agronomic techniques in the United States the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content has been increased from 0.5 per cent in the early 1970s to an average exceeding 3.5 per cent in the mid-1980s. The sinsemilla species is also widely available in the United States and averages over 8 per cent of THC content. This trend to domestic production of high-quality and potent herbal cannabis, also mentioned by some European countries, could become increasingly prevalent. For traffickers seeking to meet local demand, a domestic product avoids the need for importation of the most bulky, and thus most difficult to conceal, particularly in view of the smell, of all the widely trafficked substances. This trend seems to be largely attributable to fewer shipments of cannabis herb of Colombian origin. Mexico, however, reports a steady increase of the quantities of cannabis herb seized and has become the largest foreign supplier to the United States.

Figure 17. All regions: quantities of cannabis herb reported seized, by weight, 1989

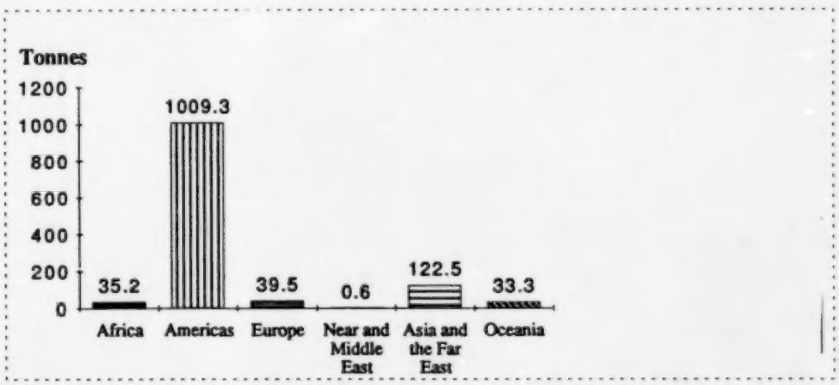
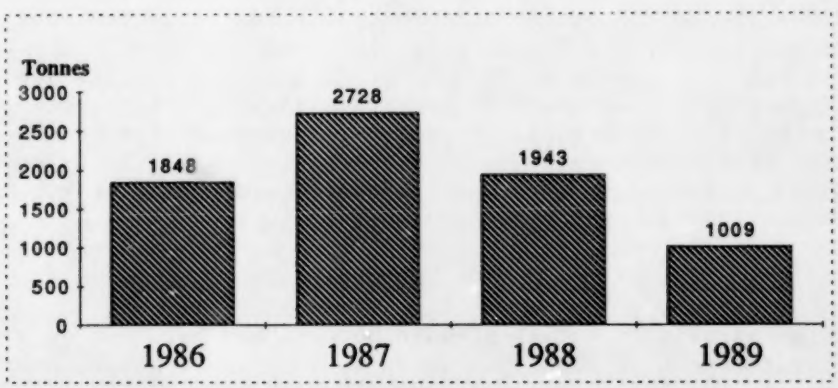


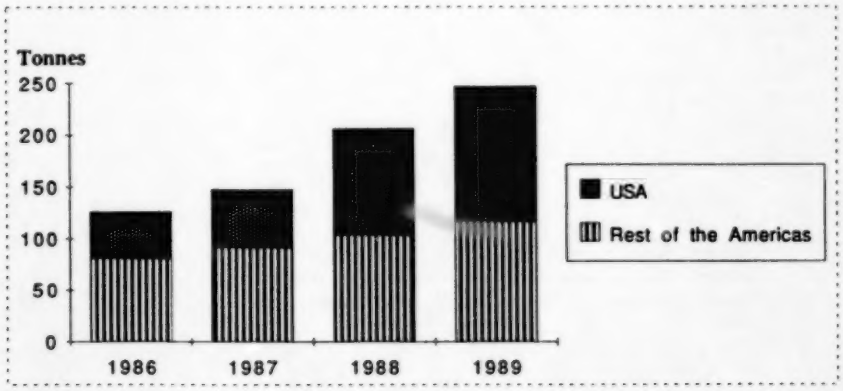
Figure 18. The Americas: quantities of cannabis herb reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



44. The total annual cocaine seizure for the region increased from 206 to 247 tonnes in 1989, the United States reporting 130 tonnes seized, compared with 102 in 1988 (see figure 19). Several countries reported spectacular

increases in their 1989 total annual seizure - Guatemala from 5 kg in 1987 to more than 3 tonnes in 1989, Venezuela from 1 tonne in 1988 to 2.7 tonnes in 1989, Mexico more than doubling to 35 tonnes in 1989. On a comparatively smaller scale over these same two years, Barbados increased from 3 to 26 kg, Canada increased from 278 to 703 kg, Chile from 79 to 882 kg, Ecuador from 130 to 454 kg, Trinidad and Tobago from 36 to 62 kg, Uruguay from 6 to 20 kg. Seizures of cocaine were also reported in 1989 by a number of Caribbean islands that had not previously been aware of any transit traffic, providing an indication of the changing patterns in trafficking methods and routes in response to law enforcement successes. On a larger scale, the unprecedented multi-tonne seizures during 1989 in Colombia, Mexico and the United States induced traffickers to change their operational strategies, involving new routes out of Latin America and aimed at new markets (one aspect of this is noted in the subsections on Africa and Europe, paragraphs 37-41 and 46-64 respectively).

Figure 19. United States of America and the rest of the Americas: quantities of cocaine reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989

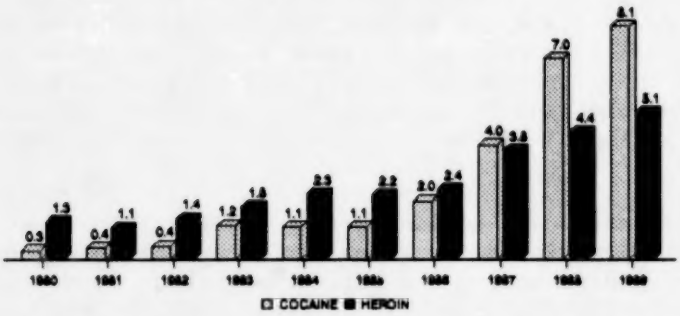


45. In respect of heroin, the total regional seizures, which have been increasing steadily over the last seven years, exceeded 1 tonne for the first time in 1989 - the United States and Mexico together totalled over 1 tonne, mostly from the former, yet Canada's total halved and in all only six countries of the region reported on this drug. A Nigerian courier arrested in the Bahamas carrying heroin and cocaine and travelling from Lagos via London proved an indicator of changing trends. In all, 61 Nigerians were arrested in the United States in 1989. Heroin of South-East Asian origin is in demand in Canada (78 per cent of seizures) and the East Coast cities of the United States (up from 14 per cent in 1988 to 56 per cent in 1989).

C. Europe

46. The European seizure totals of both cocaine and heroin show a steady increase over the past 10 years, as shown in the figure below, cocaine having surpassed heroin by 1987 (see figure 20).

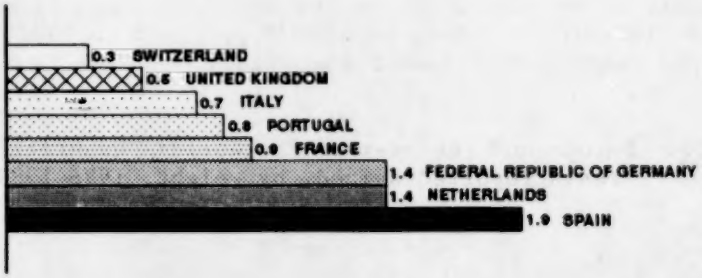
Figure 20. Europe: quantities of cocaine and heroin reported seized, by weight, 1980-1989



47. With a few exceptions (Belgium, Norway and Spain) all European States reported record annual cocaine seizure totals, the majority of them an almost twofold or threefold increase. European seizures represented a mere 3 per cent of the 1989 cocaine world total; however, a further increase in 1990 is to be expected, so far as is indicated by the 1990 individual seizure total for Europe compiled to date. Large cocaine consignments arriving from South America by sea seem to have become a common feature, replacing to a large extent the use of couriers by air via the Iberian peninsula.

48. Despite a cocaine seizure total of only just over half of its 1988 quantity, in 1989 Spain for the third consecutive year seized more than any other European country. Greatly increased seizures in the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany and in 1990 in Belgium, confirm this changing pattern, whereby larger cocaine consignments are arriving from the South American continent by sea (see figure 21).

Figure 21. Europe: quantities of cocaine reported seized, selected countries, by weight, 1989



49. In 1989, the regional total of heroin seizures reached the highest amount ever recorded, a more than fourfold increase over the 1980s.

50. The European regional total has fairly consistently comprised around 20 per cent of world seizure totals over the last three years (23 per cent, 19 per cent and 22 per cent respectively in 1987, 1988 and 1989).

51. In general, it appears that up to 80 per cent of the heroin seized in Europe is of south-west Asian origin and only 20 per cent is supplied by South-East Asian countries. The predominant south-west Asian origin of heroin in Europe and its movement via the Balkan route is reflected in Turkey, which recorded the highest seizure total in each of the last three years (1.3 tonnes, 1 tonne and 1.2 tonnes respectively), followed by Spain, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands, in that order. Of countries on the Balkan route, only Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia reported reduced seizures in 1989.

52. Turkish traffickers are dominating the illicit traffic of heroin of south-west Asian origin in Spain, after having established settlements along the Costa del Sol and at Madrid and Barcelona. About 85 per cent of the heroin seized in Spain originated in southwest Asia and was brought to Spain via the Balkan route.

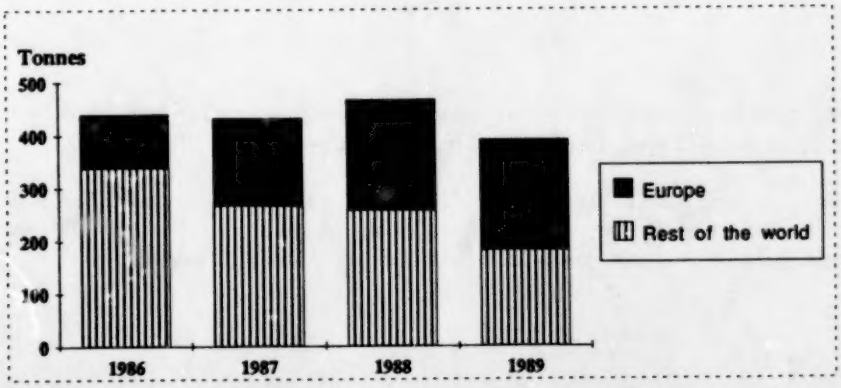
53. Returning to the involvement of African nationals as couriers of heroin, seven European countries have provided data on heroin traffickers from west African countries, 760 having been arrested in 1989. Of these, 636 were of Nigerian nationality.

54. The regional totals for morphine and opium showed a slight decline. Morphine seizures reported by Turkey comprised 80 per cent, 94 per cent and 90 per cent respectively of the regional total in the last three years, with Europe accounting for 28 per cent of world seizures in both 1988 and 1989. The quantity of opium poppies seized in 1989, however, increased noticeably from 41 tonnes to almost 54 tonnes and from 482,000 poppies to 1.2 million poppies, including 49 tonnes of opium plants of wild growth reported by Spain and 1.1 million poppies seized in Italy. In 1988 and 1989 Yugoslavia made Europe's largest total seizures of opium (raw and prepared).

55. Although seizures of cannabis and its preparations dropped considerably in 1989, an upswing is to be expected in cannabis resin seizures for 1990, taking into account the record seizure of 45 tonnes registered by the Netherlands in June 1990.

56. In the last three years, Europe has seized a steadily increasing proportion of the world seizure total, namely 38 per cent in 1987, 45 per cent in 1988 and 54 per cent in 1989 (see figure 22).

Figure 22. Europe and the rest of the world: quantities of cannabis resin reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



57. A close examination of the cannabis resin seizure figures reveals, however, that the decrease in quantities seized was experienced only by certain countries, mainly by Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Spain. By contrast, recordings of some other European countries showed a significant increase: the Federal Republic of Germany (from 2.5 tonnes to 11.6 tonnes), Italy (from 6.9 tonnes to 23 tonnes), Portugal (from 0.3 tonnes to 4.6 tonnes) and the United Kingdom (from 21 tonnes to 53 tonnes). The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reported for the first time cannabis resin seizures amounting to 3 tonnes in 1989. Of the European countries, Spain has consistently made the highest seizures in the last three years, confirming Morocco as the predominant supplier country for Europe's illicit cannabis resin market.

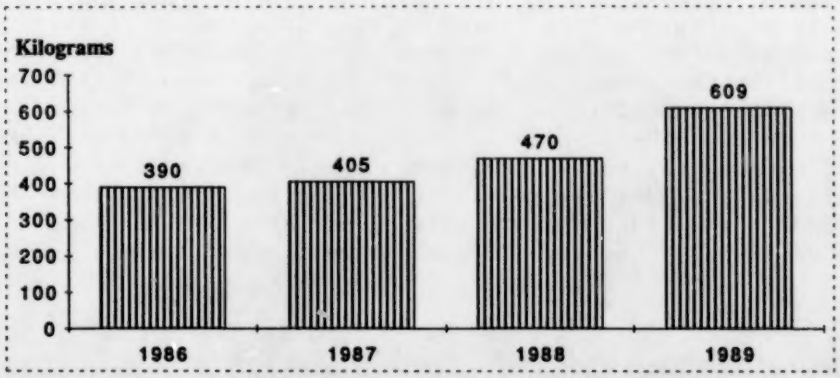
58. In respect of psychotropic substances, an increase in the quantity of depressants reported seized by weight (from 1.8 kg to 8 kg) was matched by an increase in dosage units (from 201,000 to 277,000 dosage units), involving mainly barbiturates.

59. Belgium reported one single seizure of 64 kg of methaqualone from a clandestine laboratory in 1989. Otherwise, only Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom reported seizures of this substance during the same reporting period.

60. The regional total of LSD seizures for 1989 declined. On the contrary, the hallucinogen seizures, including MDMA ("Ecstasy"), rose significantly from 780 g in 1988 to 18 kg in 1989 and from 6,300 dosage units to 938,000. The Netherlands, with 930,000 dosage units, apparently the main European source country, accounts for almost the entire regional total. Belgium noted the ready availability of MDMA despite the dismantling of two clandestine MDMA laboratories in 1989.

61. The regional seizure totals of stimulants for 1989 rose from 469 kg to 610 kg in 1989 (see figure 23). This is mainly because of the inclusion of khat in the annual seizure totals reported by two Nordic countries (Norway, 190 kg of khat and 14 kg of amphetamines; and Sweden, 4 kg of khat and 51 kg of stimulants). In November 1989, khat was classified as a narcotic drug by the Norwegian and Swedish authorities. From other publications received, the United Kingdom has observed increasing availability and consumption of khat, which has apparently spread beyond the East African immigrant population. The appearance of khat - containing cathinone, which is closely related to amphetamine in structure and effect and had been included in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention - on the European drug scene is a new though minor feature of the illicit traffic, its consumption apparently no longer restricted exclusively to ethnic African groups residing abroad.

Figure 23. Europe: quantities of stimulants reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



62. Sweden, among the countries with the highest amphetamine consumption in the world, recorded a large number of amphetamine seizures. The Netherlands (75 per cent) and Poland (24 per cent) are the main supplier countries for amphetamine consumers in Sweden. Norway and Denmark also reported increased seizures. The volume of amphetamine trafficking and abuse in Denmark has apparently overtaken that of heroin. About 10-15 per cent of the amphetamine is estimated to be smuggled in from Poland, and the remainder from the Netherlands. After a strong upward trend towards amphetamine consumption over the past years, the Federal Republic of Germany observed a stabilization in the demand for this substance.

63. To summarize, where stimulant seizures are reported by weight, 50 per cent was seized in Denmark, Norway and Sweden and 29 per cent in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands combined (compared with 30 per cent and 37 per cent respectively in 1988; and 37 per cent and 35 per cent in 1987). While these comparative figures are relatively consistent, there are also scattered reports of exceptionally large quantities of dosage units seized, for example in 1988 in excess of 1 million in Austria and nearly 3 million in Turkey, and in 1989 2.3 million in Cyprus.

64. Features of the illicit traffic in Europe specially mentioned by individual countries included the following:

(a) The changing political situation in eastern Europe, heralding increasing variations on the Balkan route transit and entry points to western European countries;

(b) Denmark: substantial cocaine seizures at Copenhagen airport from Lebanese traffickers in transit to Damascus;

(c) Nordic countries: African heroin trafficking groups operating under Pakistan organization;

(d) Sweden: an increase in the number of heroin and opium seizures, which is mainly attributed to the consumption habits of legal or illegal immigrants;

(e) France: an increase of 122 per cent in drug seizures from the mail in 1989, involving predominantly heroin of Pakistan origin;

(f) Italy: a steady increase of cocaine trafficking by sea;

(g) Spain: increased arrival of large consignments of cocaine by sea.

D. Near and Middle East

65. This region consistently touches the extremes, being among the most prolific in terms of quantities seized in respect of six drug types (cannabis resin, heroin, morphine, opium, depressants and stimulants), yet scarcely affected at all by the remaining 15 types tabled in document E/CN.7/1991/CRP.8. Indeed in each of the last three years, it has seized more heroin, opium and depressants than any other region, averaging over this three-year period 45 per cent, 82 per cent and 40 per cent of world totals of each drug type respectively. In the last two years, it has averaged 64 per cent of the morphine seized world-wide. Add to this 51 per cent, 39 per cent and 43 per cent of the world-wide quantity of cannabis resin seized annually in the last

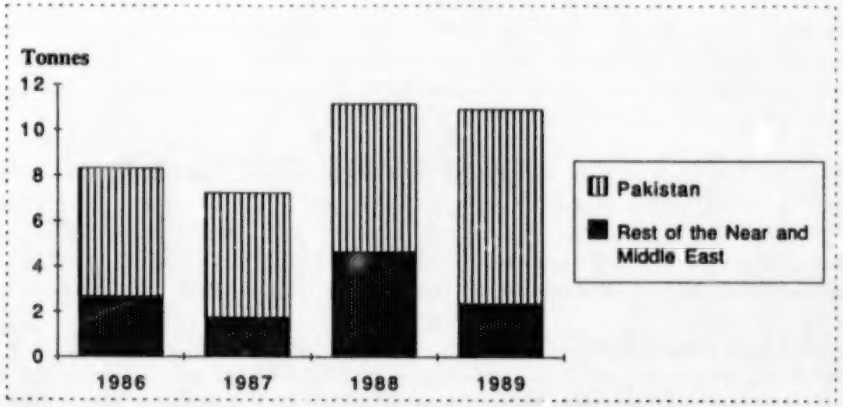
three years (in this case exceeded in 1988 and 1989 only by Europe, where some 20-25 per cent was in any case of Near and Middle East origin - this being an estimate based upon the small number of reports that indicated such sources). Where stimulants are concerned, only the very large quantities seized in the United States leave the Near and Middle East (where Saudi Arabia is correspondingly prominent) in second place.

66. Pakistan reported 63 per cent, 80 per cent and 72 per cent of the region's total quantity of cannabis resin in 1989, 1988 and 1987 respectively; these quantities also comprised 28 per cent, 31 per cent and 37 per cent of the world totals. Predominantly, the origin of this resin was either Pakistan itself or Afghanistan. In each of the same three years, Egypt reported the second highest quantities, in this case mainly of Lebanese origin.

67. Similarly, in respect of heroin Pakistan reported 78 per cent, 58 per cent and 76 per cent of the total quantity seized in the region in the last three years, these quantities also representing 37 per cent, 28 per cent and 33 per cent of the world totals (see figure 24). Again the origin was mainly Pakistan or Afghanistan. Afghanistan itself has reported a greatly increased seizure total of over half a tonne in 1989, this being through a number of individual seizure reports, which may indicate only a portion of the total quantity seized during the full year. High proportions were also reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The fact that the regional total quantity in 1989 decreased by 2 per cent appeared largely due to a 2.7 tonnes drop in the latter country's annual seizure total. The Iranian authorities reported that 40 per cent of seizures came from Afghanistan and 60 per cent through Pakistan, in this case being of both Pakistan and Afghan origin. Egypt, in reporting a decreased total (mainly the consequence of one exceptionally large seizure the previous year) specified the origins as India (30 per cent), Pakistan (30 per cent) and Syria, Lebanon or Turkey (10 per cent each). All but two of the remaining countries of the region reported an increase in seized quantities in 1989.

68. In respect of both depressants and stimulants, the principal quantities were reported by Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

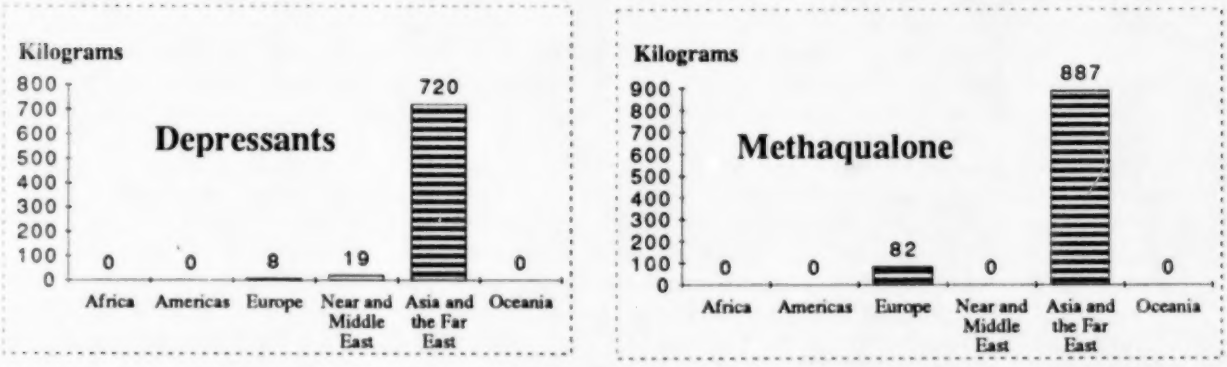
Figure 24. Pakistan and the rest of the Near and Middle East: quantities of heroin reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



E. Asia and the Far East

69. So far as it is reflected by reported seizures, illicit traffic in this region, after increasing in most drug types in 1988, decreased in 1989 in all types except for cannabis (herbal and liquid), cocaine, opium (plants and capsules and poppy seeds) and depressants. The principal drug types in this region are cannabis herb and plants, opium plants and capsules (the region recording the highest seizure quantities reported by weight in each of the last three years, though only a small portion of that was reported in units), heroin (29 per cent of the world total in 1987 and 1988, 25 per cent in 1989) and psychotropics (depressants and stimulants). (See figure 25, which indicates the quantities of depressants and methaqualone seized in Asia and the Far East, compared with other regions, in 1989.)

Figure 25. All regions: quantities of depressants and methalone reported seized, by weight, 1989



70. Large-scale illicit growth of the cannabis plant has been reported by seven countries in Asia and the Far East: India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

71. India has, throughout the last few years, undertaken relentless and successful detection and destruction campaigns in cannabis cultivation areas, including almost 52 million cannabis plants in Gwalior State in 1989.

72. Besides the wild growth of cannabis prevailing in several regions and fostered by favourable climatic and soil conditions, Indonesia experienced a noticeable extension of the cannabis cultivation area, from 17 hectares in 1988 to 77 hectares detected in 1989.

73. In 1989, in two operations, about 7 hectares of cannabis cultivation (286,470 plants) and more than 19,900 plants were eradicated in Myanmar.

74. In Nepal, almost 600 hectares of illicitly cultivated cannabis plants were eradicated and about 9 tonnes of cannabis destroyed in 1989.

75. In the Philippines, where illicit cultivation of the cannabis plant is widely dispersed, a total of 25.5 million illicitly grown plants or seedlings and about 6.7 tonnes dried cannabis herb of illegal harvest were detected and

destroyed during 1989. A further extension of illicit cannabis cultivation is expected, owing to the increasing demand for cannabis grown in the Philippines.

76. Sri Lanka reported stable illicit cultivation of 200 hectares.

77. Dense illicit growth of the cannabis plant in three north-eastern provinces of Thailand, which formerly accounted for about 90 per cent of the domestic cannabis production, appears to have declined owing to effective eradication campaigns during the past five years and to have spread to other regions, particularly the southern provinces. There was a considerable decrease in the acreage eradicated in 1989, from 162 hectares reported in 1988 to about 110 hectares in 1989, whereas the quantity of eradicated plants rose from 460 tonnes in 1988 to more than 500 tonnes in 1989.

78. The occurrence of illicit opium poppy cultivation during 1989 was reported by five countries of the region: India, Japan, Myanmar, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. Additionally, reports have been received of cultivation in other countries of the region, but without precise data.

79. Myanmar reported the destruction of 87 hectares of illicit opium growth during the 1989/90 growing season, corresponding to a withdrawal of about 0.7 tonnes of opium, if processed.

80. Owing to successful eradication campaigns, Thailand experienced an unexpected decrease in the opium production to about 20 tonnes and in the extent of illicit poppy cultivation to about 4,000 hectares in 1989, in contradiction to the predicted record harvest during the 1989/90 growing season in the Golden Triangle area. Current detection methods, including satellite remote-sensing, although considered expensive for the comparatively small extent of cultivation, proved to be most effective and led to the assessment of the total extent of the opium poppy cultivation within the country at 15 per cent less than estimated in the previous year.

81. Hong Kong reported the detection of 13 clandestine heroin laboratories (conversion of heroin No. 4 to heroin No. 3). An increase in the illicit manufacture of opiates was also reported by India, three cases of illicit heroin production, four incidents of morphine manufacture and one case of cannabis resin production being detected. In 1989, six incidents of illicit conversion of heroin base into heroin No. 3 were recorded in Malaysia, compared with only three cases detected in 1988. A reduction in the number of illicit heroin refineries situated in the border regions was claimed by Myanmar.

82. Thailand reported the dismantling of 10 heroin manufacturing laboratories in deep jungle or inaccessible mountainous areas in the northern provinces of the country in 1989.

83. The Asia and Far East regional cannabis herb total for 1989 amounted to more than 120 tonnes, which represents more than twice the 1988 quantity, but less than the 1987 seizure total (211 tonnes). Substantially increased seizures were reported for 1989 by Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Myanmar and the Philippines.

84. India's 1989 annual seizure total of 54.5 tonnes surpassed the totals for the two previous years. Japan reported an increase from 164 kg seized in 1988 to 446 kg in 1989. Myanmar stated that there had been a substantial increase from about 400 kg of cannabis herb seized in 1988 to almost 21 tonnes in 1989.

85. The Philippines reported a general increase in cannabis trafficking, including trafficking within the country and outward smuggling by air or sea to Hong Kong and Japan, or by air to the United States and Western Europe (the Netherlands). As a result, there was a more than twofold increase, from 2.8 tonnes seized in 1988 to 6.9 tonnes in 1989. Sri Lanka reported a rise in the 1989 annual seizure total to more than 5 tonnes.

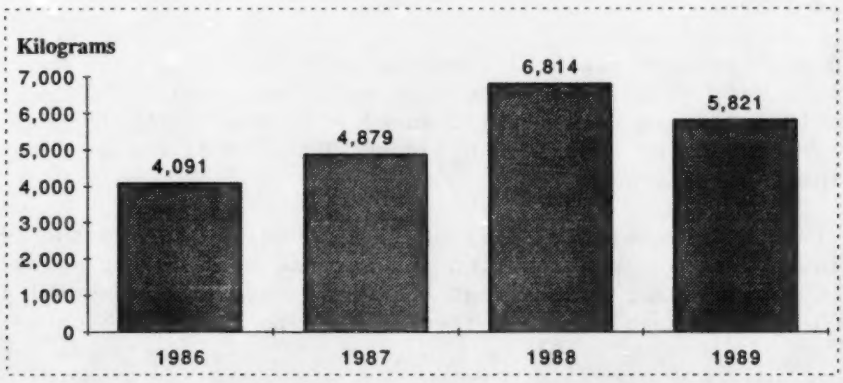
86. Thailand reported 25 tonnes of herb seized in 1989, found in bulk quantities in transit from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Democratic Kampuchea or from the north-eastern region of Thailand, destined for the United States, Canada and European countries, mainly by sea cargo.

87. The regional cannabis resin total for Asia and the Far East fell considerably from 17.8 tonnes in 1988 to 8.4 tonnes in 1989. This reflects a more than 50 per cent decrease in the quantity seized in India, which in both years has accounted for almost the whole of the regional total. Cannabis resin trafficking remained high within the country, however, as is corroborated by the significant rise in the number of seizures registered by Indian authorities, from about 400 in 1988 to almost 700 in 1989 - the drug originated from the resin-producing countries of the region, Afghanistan and Pakistan (50 per cent) and Nepal (17 per cent).

88. Cocaine continues to play a minor role in illicit traffic in the Asian region, with about 18 kg seized in 1989, a slight increase compared with approximately 14 kg in 1988. While India experienced a decrease from 13 kg of cocaine seized in 1988 to 3 kg in 1989, a noticeable upswing from the 214 g of cocaine seized in 1988 to almost 14 kg in 1989 was reported by Japan. It is believed that the increase is due to Colombian cocaine syndicates targeting Japan as a new market and the pharmacological similarity between cocaine and methamphetamine (in demand in Japan).

89. In 1989, the regional total of heroin seizures reveals a 15 per cent decrease, from 6.8 tonnes interdicted in 1988 to 5.8 tonnes in 1989 (see figure 26). This is mainly due to the fact that the 1988 heroin total included the record seizure of more than 1 tonne effected by Thai drug law enforcement authorities in February 1988. Trends vary considerably; Thailand and India, for example, experienced a decrease in the quantities seized but a rise in the number of incidents, while the totals reported by Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong (including an outstanding seizure of 420 kg of heroin), Myanmar and Sri Lanka showed a significant upward trend.

Figure 26. Asia and the Far East: quantities of heroin reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



90. Bangladesh experienced a substantial increase from about 2 kg of heroin seized in 1987 to almost 128 kg in 1989. China was affected by a steady increase of heroin seizures, from 50 kg in 1987 to about 170 kg in 1988, reaching almost 560 kg in 1989. The number of trafficking incidents continued to rise significantly in 1990. Heroin of "Golden Triangle" origin transits the south-western provinces of the country by road to its main destinations, namely Hong Kong and the United States.

91. Hong Kong experienced a further increase from 879 kg seized in 1988 to 1,052 kg interdicted in 1989 and reported the predominance of overland smuggling of heroin through China. Heroin is now imported to Hong Kong almost exclusively in the form of heroin No. 4, some in transit, some for local abuse and conversion into heroin No. 3 for domestic consumption. The arrest of 17 Nigerians in 1989 attempting to transit Hong Kong for Europe and North America in possession of heroin of both south-eastern and south-western origin was a new trend.

92. Owing to its geographical position between the two major source areas, the "Golden Triangle" and the "Golden Crescent", India continues to be strongly affected by a constantly increasing illicit transit traffic of heroin. About 60 per cent is believed to be smuggled from Afghanistan and/or through Pakistan, sometimes in bulk quantities, across the provinces of Rajasthan and Punjab and only a small percentage (less than 1 per cent) is brought in across the eastern border from Myanmar and Thailand. The quantity of heroin seized in 1989 in India decreased by 10 per cent from 3 tonnes interdicted in 1988 to 2.7 tonnes; by contrast the number of seizures rose by more than 150 per cent, from about 500 incidents in 1988 to approximately 1,250 in 1989. The destination of the drug remains unchanged: mainly the United States and western Europe.

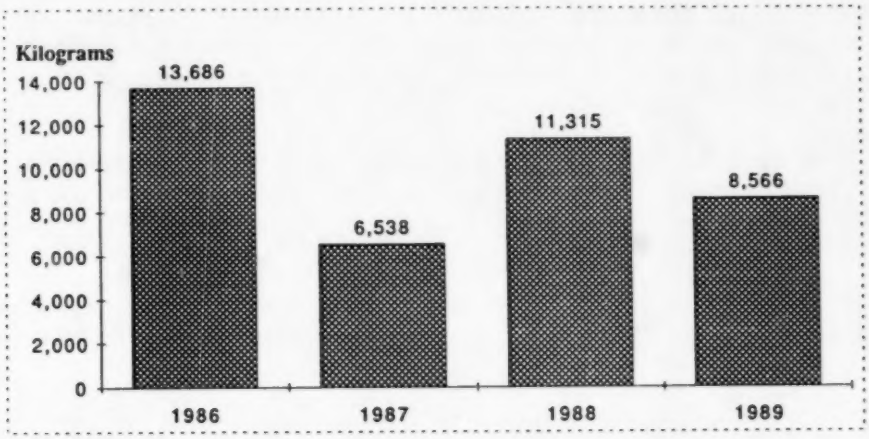
93. In 1989, Nigerians head the list of foreigners involved or arrested in India in connection with heroin offences, with 88 Nigerian nationals out of a total of 205 foreigners. The predominance and high frequency of involvement of mostly West African heroin traffickers in India remains at a high level in 1990, though with more recent signs of a decrease.

94. Japan, with 17 kg in 1988 reaching almost 28 kg in 1989, Myanmar, with more than 1,600 heroin seizures in 1989, and totalling 187 kg, an almost 50 per cent increase compared with 1988, and Sri Lanka with from about 19 kg in 1988 to more than 72 kg in 1989, all reported substantial increases.

95. Unabated illicit heroin traffic concentrated in the north-eastern border region was reported by Thailand. About 720 kg of heroin were seized in 1989, compared with the 1988 annual heroin total of 2,200 kg (which included the record seizure of more than 1 tonne). By contrast, the number of heroin seizures rose significantly, from 11,783 in 1988 to 13,676 in 1989. The traffickers are constantly on the search for new routes either by sea, air or land, using unsuspected exit points and transit countries; the increase in the involvement of Nigerian heroin traffickers was also noted.

96. The regional opium seizure total shows a substantial decline from 11.3 tonnes in 1988 to 8.5 tonnes in 1989 (see figure 27). This is mainly due to a considerable drop in the annual amount seized in Thailand, which fell from the 1988 record seizure total of 6.5 tonnes to 1.8 tonnes in 1989; as with heroin, however, the number of seizures rose significantly, from 2,577 in 1988 to 3,197 in 1989.

Figure 27. Asia and the Far East: quantities of opium (raw and prepared) reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



97. China's annual opium seizure totals reveal a continuing rise, from 159 kg in 1987 to 247 kg in 1988, reaching almost 290 kg in 1989.

98. A steady increase of opium seizures was reported by India: after the drop from 8.7 tonnes of opium seized in 1986 to 2.9 tonnes interdicted in 1987, the annual totals rose again, from 3.3 tonnes in 1988 to almost 4.9 tonnes in 1989. Significant increases were also reported by Malaysia and Singapore. Myanmar, however, reported a decrease, from 1.5 tonnes in 1987 to about 880 kg in 1988 and 620 kg in 1989.

99. In respect of psychotropics, any detailed analysis of trends is precluded by varied patterns of reporting (by weight and units), by a small number of very large seizures (for example, three seizures of depressants in India in 1989, comprising the greater part of the regional and a considerable proportion of the world totals), and by the small number of countries reporting.

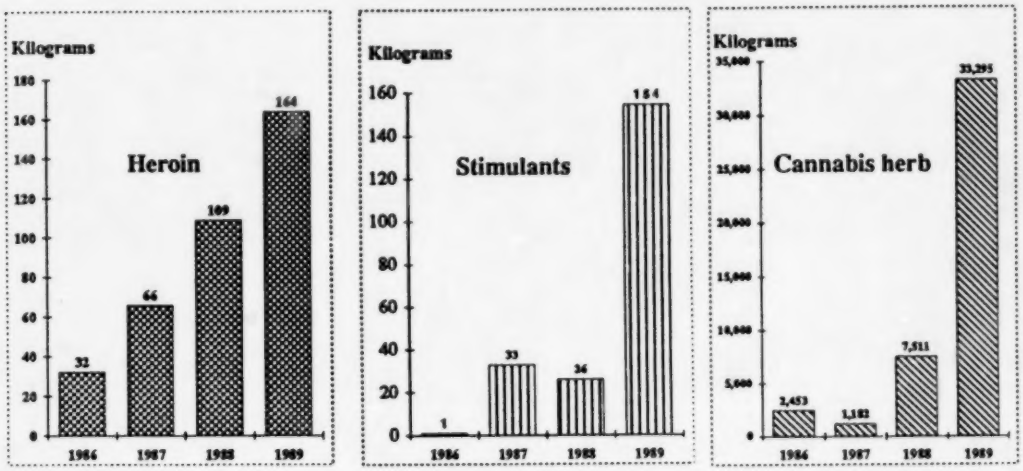
F. Oceania

100. With the exception of cannabis in its various forms and cocaine (up to six countries or Territories reported in respect of these drugs), only Australia and New Zealand from this region reported on the full range of drug types. Considerable increases were recorded in 1989, compared with previous years, of cannabis herb and plants, cocaine, heroin, opium plants, hallucinogens, LSD and stimulants (see figure 28 for examples of these increases).

101. Reductions in cannabis cultivation areas were claimed to have been detected in both Australia and New Zealand, with a severe impact on prices and availability in the latter. Increased cultivation was reported by Fiji and New Caledonia.

102. Australia, with an annual total of 32.6 tonnes of cannabis herb, accounted for 98 per cent of the regional total for the Pacific. This compared with 1.2 tonnes in 1987 and 7.5 tonnes in 1988. In New Zealand, annual seizure totals have remained stable over the last three years, with about 600 kg seized annually. Against this, the incidence of cannabis resin in the region decreased sharply in 1989.

Figure 28. Oceania: quantities of heroin stimulants and cannabis herb, reported seized, by weight, 1986-1989



103. The Pacific region showed a steady increase, from about 16 kg of cocaine interdicted in 1987 to 41 kg in 1988, reaching almost 50 kg in 1989, with Australia seizing a total of 49 kg compared with 21 kg seized in 1988 and accounting for almost the entire regional total.

104. In respect of heroin, Australia experienced a steady rise in its annual seizure totals, from 66 kg in 1987 to 106 kg in 1988, reaching 161 kg in 1989. Most of the heroin consumed within the country was illegally imported from South-East Asia by air, through couriers, the mail and cargo containers. Availability of south-west Asian heroin has also increased. Heroin of Middle East provenance was also encountered. New Zealand reported the interdiction of relatively small quantities of heroin in 1989 compared with 1988, mainly of South-East Asian origin.

105. After cannabis, amphetamine, mostly of domestic production, is the most widely abused substance in Australia. About 154 kg and 16,100 dosage units were seized in 1989, which represents a substantial increase compared with 1988 (26 kg seized).

106. Various hallucinogens were encountered, MDMA ("Ecstasy") gaining in popularity in Australia. While LSD continued to decline there, quantities seized in New Zealand increased steadily from 4,515 dosage units in 1987 to 12,188 units in 1988 and reached almost 21,000 units in 1989.

IV. ILLICIT MANUFACTURE

107. In 1989 a considerable increase was recorded in the number of seized laboratories - a total of 3,954, compared with 2,402 in 1988, recorded by 23 countries, three fewer than reported in 1988. These increases were spread equally across the four regions mainly reporting such seizures (see table 1).

Table 1. Illicit manufacture: laboratories reported seized, all regions, 1988-1989

Region	1988		1989	
	Laboratories seized	Countries reporting	Laboratories seized	Countries reporting
Africa	2	1	-	-
Americas	2 342	9	3 811	6
Europe	24	8	77	10
Near and Middle East	-	-	-	-
Asia and the Far East	26	7	40	6
Oceania	8	1	26	1
Total	2 402	26	3 954	23

108. Further details of the substances manufactured and number of laboratories seized are contained in the relevant section of document E/CN.7/1991/CRP.8. Two countries reported quantities seized of illicitly manufactured substances, without stating the number of seized laboratories.

V. DIVERSION

109. Diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by thefts from factories, wholesalers, pharmacies, hospitals or doctors' surgeries, sales of prescriptions or controlled substances to unauthorized persons etc. was reported by four African, five American and 16 European countries, three countries in Asia and Far East and two countries in Oceania. The number of reported cases of diversion rose from 8,580 in 1988 to 12,604 in 1989, an increase of 47 per cent. Of the reported cases for 1989, 9,749 occurred in just two countries. These two countries and the predominant substances diverted during 1989 (so far as they were specified by reporting countries) are detailed in document E/CN.7/1991/CRP.8.

110. Quantities seized following diversion from licit channels were specified by 15 countries (compared with 19 countries in 1988). Whether specified in kilograms, litres or units, totals for 1989 showed a considerable increase over 1988, as shown in table 2.

Table 2. Quantities of substances reported seized world-wide following diversion from licit channels, by weight, volume and number of units, 1988-1989

Year	Countries reporting	Countries specifying seizures	Quantity seized		
			Weight (kilograms)	Volume (litres)	Number of units
1988	26	19	5.81	1 264 753	821 979
1989	30	15	229.67	1 453 506	1 458 963

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

111. This report has concentrated upon the year 1989, with many comparative references to 1987 and 1988. Several references have also been made to emerging trends and developments in 1990. Further consideration of the developments in illicit traffic in 1990 are available to the the Commission in the reports of the regional meetings of heads of drug law enforcement agencies for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Europe (E/CN.7/1991/2 and Corr.1, E/CN.7/1991/3, E/CN.7/1991/4 and Corr.1 and E/CN.7/1991/5).

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 976, No. 14152.

2/ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.